

Message Text

SECRET

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46

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 NEA-10 ISO-00 EUR-12 IO-11 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /093 W

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P R 061425Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5431

AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

S E C R E T NOUAKCHOTT 0823

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR KS MR

SUBJECT: MAURITANIAN-KOREAN RELATIONS

REF: (W) SEOUL 2482, (B) NOUAKCHOTT 765

1. REF B PROVIDES LATEST STATUS OF MAURITANIAN-DPRK RELATIONS.
2. WE BELIEVE TIME IS PROPITIOUS FOR SOUTH KOREA TO TRY TO ESTABLISH MORE PERMANENT RELATIONSHIP IN MAURITANIA. THIS MIGHT BE DONE MOST READILY IN FORM OF FISHING OR COMMERCIAL OFFICE IN NOUADHIBOU. MORE REMOTE PROSPECT, BUT ONE NOT OUTSIDE REALM OF POSSIBILITY IN VIEW OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS, WOULD BE GIRM PERMISSION FOR ROKG TO ESTABLISH CONSULAR OFFICE IN NOUADHIBOU. WE DO NOT RPT NOT BELIEVE THERE IS ANY CHANCE GIRM IS PREPARED TO ENTER INTO FORMAL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ROKG IN SPITE OF MAURITANIA'S REACTION TO DPRK RECOGNITION OF SAHRAWI DEMOCRATIC ARAB REPUBLIC. MOTIVATING FACTOR IN GIRM DECISION WILL BE ADVANCEMENT OF MAURITANIAN ECONOMIC INTERESTS. WE HAVE SEEN NO EVIDENCE THAT DPRK POLICY ON SAHARA HAS CAUSED GIRM TO SUBSTANTIALLY REVISE ITS POSITION ON KOREAN QUESTION.

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3. TACTICALLY, WE THINK ROKG WOULD BE WELL ADVISED TO

APPROACH SUBJECT SLOWLY, CAREFULLY, AND GINGERLY.
MAURITANIANS ARE FULLY AWARE OF STATE OF AFFAIRS WITH
NORTH KOREA AND IT WOULD SERVE NO USEFUL PURPOSE TO
REMINDE THEM OF THIS FACT. GIRM ONLY RELUCTANTLY CHOSE
"TO FREEZE" RELATIONS WITH DPRK AND ALMOST CERTAINLY
DOES NOT WISH TO BE REMINDED OF THIS DISTASTEFUL ACTION.
WE BELIEVE MOST SUCCESSFUL ROKG APPROACH WOULD BE ONE
WHICH MAKES NO REFERENCE TO RECENT DPRK SETBACK IN
MAURITANIA. WE WOULD ALSO RECOMMEND THAT ROKG USE
BUILDING-BLOCK APPROACH, INCREASING PRESENCE AND ACTI-
VITIES AS PREVAILING SITUATION ALLOWS.HANDYSIDE

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